

In the Claims

1-19 (canceled)

20 (new). A method for suppressing or inhibiting allergen-specific IgE production, said method comprising administering an effective amount of interferon tau or a chimeric interferon to a person or animal in need of suppression or inhibition of allergen-specific IgE production, wherein said chimeric interferon comprises a mammalian interferon tau amino terminus and a human type I interferon carboxy terminus other than interferon tau, or a biologically active fragment of said interferon tau or said chimeric interferon.

21 (new). The method according to claim 20, wherein said suppression or inhibition of IgE production occurs through inhibition of B-cell IgE secretion or inhibition of B-cell proliferation.

22 (new). The method according to claim 20, wherein said interferon tau or said chimeric interferon is administered by routes selected from the group consisting of oral administration, parenteral administration, subcutaneous administration and intravenous administration.

23 (new). The method according to claim 20, wherein said person or animal is afflicted with, or predisposed to, an IgE-related condition, wherein said condition is an allergic condition.

24 (new). The method according to claim 23, wherein said allergic condition is selected from the group consisting of allergic rhinitis, atopic dermatitis, bronchial asthma and food allergy.

25 (new). The method according to claim 20, wherein said interferon tau or said chimeric interferon is administered *in vitro*.

26 (new). The method according to claim 20, wherein said interferon tau or said chimeric interferon is formulated in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

27 (new). The method according to claim 20, wherein said interferon tau is a mammalian interferon tau.

28 (new). A method for suppressing or inhibiting proliferation of an IgE-producing cell, said method comprising administering an effective amount of interferon tau or a chimeric interferon to a person or animal in need of suppressing or inhibiting proliferation of IgE-producing cells, wherein said chimeric interferon comprises a mammalian interferon tau amino terminus and a human type I interferon carboxy terminus other than interferon tau, or a biologically active fragment of said interferon tau or said chimeric interferon.

29 (new). The method according to claim 28, wherein said interferon tau or said chimeric interferon is administered by routes selected from the group consisting of oral administration, parenteral administration, subcutaneous administration and intravenous administration.

30 (new). The method according to claim 28, wherein said person or animal is afflicted with, or predisposed to, an IgE-related condition, wherein said condition is an allergic condition.

31 (new). The method according to claim 30, wherein said allergic condition is selected from the group consisting of allergic rhinitis, atopic dermatitis, bronchial asthma and food allergy.

32 (new). The method according to claim 28, wherein said interferon tau or said chimeric interferon is administered *in vitro*.

33 (new). The method according to claim 28, wherein said interferon tau or said chimeric interferon is formulated in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

34 (new). The method according to claim 28, wherein said interferon tau is a mammalian interferon tau.

35 (new). A method for suppressing or inhibiting allergen-specific IgE production, said method comprising identifying a person or animal in need of suppression or inhibition of allergen-specific IgE production and administering an effective amount of interferon tau or a chimeric interferon to said person or animal, wherein said chimeric interferon comprises a mammalian interferon tau amino terminus and a human type I interferon carboxy terminus other than interferon tau, or a biologically active fragment of said interferon tau or said chimeric interferon.